

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

Executive Registry

75-11317/A
OLC 75-2224/a
DAO

24 OCT 1975

Honorable Elmer B. Staats
Comptroller General of the United States
Washington, D. C. 20548

Dear Mr. Staats:

This is in response to your letter of 9 September 1975 in which you requested access to all information held by this Agency related to the Mayaguez incident. A review of your request has indicated that most of the information requested is quite sensitive and highly classified.

In the past, the policy in sensitive areas such as this has been to brief the concerned committees of Congress directly on the details of such matters. While this procedure may change in the future as a result of the current congressional inquiries, it is felt that any decision to modify prior practice in this area should await the termination of the current investigations and suggested changes in procedures emanating therefrom.

Absent any change in the existing arrangement, we would propose to brief the Subcommittee on International Political and Military Affairs, House International Relations Committee, directly on such information as the Subcommittee may desire from CIA.

Sincerely,

7s/ W. E. Colby

W. E. Colby
Director

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Routing Slip

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9 D/DCI/NIO		X		
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COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20548

OLC 75,2224

B-133001

SEP 9 1975

The Honorable William Colby
Director, Central Intelligence
Agency

Dear Mr. Colby:

On June 23, 1975, the Chairman of the Subcommittee on International Political and Military Affairs, House International Relations Committee, requested GAO to undertake a review of two related issues:

1. The seizure of the U.S. vessel Mayaguez and subsequent diplomatic and military efforts to secure its release.
2. Possible improvements in the crisis prevention and crisis management operations of our government, specifically, the planning and execution of military operations; the speed and adequacy of military and diplomatic communications; and the adequacy of arrangements for briefing and consulting the Congress.

Our respective staffs have had a number of subsequent discussions designed to facilitate our access to CIA documents. As these contacts have been informal and thus far unproductive, [redacted] of your staff has suggested this more formal request which identifies both the general nature of our interest in CIA's role during the Mayaguez episode, and the specific CIA documents which would be useful for our investigation.

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Our general interest relates to CIA performance of the intelligence function prior to, and during the incident. This would require an understanding of intelligence capabilities in the local area, the process whereby intelligence priorities were identified, the actual collection of intelligence prior to and during the episode, CIA relationships with the broader intelligence community and coordination of intelligence gathering and interpretation during the episode, the process of interpreting and channeling raw intelligence and analysis to decision makers, the process of feedback from policy makers to the intelligence community as intelligence requirements evolved, and the post-mortem function. In sum, we are interested in the totality of CIA's role as exercised during the Mayaguez episode.

In developing an understanding of this role, we have identified the following specific CIA documents to which we require access:

"The Mayaguez Situation as of 1600 May 14, 1975"
Intelligence memorandum, CIA directorate of intelligence, [redacted]

"The Mayaguez Situation as of 1600 May 13, 1975"
[redacted]

CIA post-mortem on the performance of the intelligence community during the episode.

CIA analysis of Cambodian intentions done during the episode.

In addition, we request access to the following types of information:

The Pre-Seizure Period

Analyses of character and authority of the Cambodian Government, nature of political/military relations, local Cambodian force dispositions, U.S.-Cambodian, Cambodian-Vietnamese relations, activities of Cambodian Navy in the area of Mayaguez seizure.

Nature of intelligence reaching other agencies--including State, DOD, NSC--on the above issues, nature of instructions from Intelligence Committee or individual agencies on intelligence priorities, CIA inputs into the Intelligence Committee regarding Cambodia, evaluations of intelligence capabilities in the area.

CIA inputs into any meetings of the 40 Committee concerning Cambodia.

May 12 - May 15 Period

Any Mayaguez Situation Reports not cited above, other summaries of local developments, Cambodian capabilities and intentions, diplomatic state of play, location of the crew, possible consequences of various military options, done for internal CIA purposes.

Chronologies of events, logs of CIA activities.

Cable traffic originated and received by CIA.

Materials developed in preparation for NSC or WASAG meetings.

Any intelligence materials, briefings and analyses provided other officials and agencies, including the President, State, DOD, NSC.

Materials relating to understandings reached during NSC or WASAG meetings.

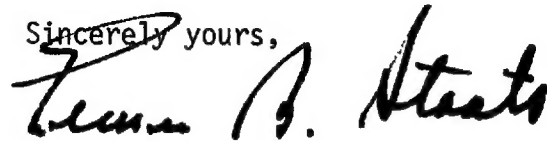
CIA communications with the rest of the intelligence community, particularly those relating to coordination of intelligence gathering and analysis.

Post-Seizure Period

Any other post-mortums not cited above, concerning the intelligence function--gathering, channeling, interpretation, coordination, availability to decision makers, establishment of priorities.

We trust that this list will convey a more concrete idea of our documentary requirements. Any further clarification will, if necessary, be provided by C. D. Hylander, Deputy Director, International Division, (386-6548), or R. E. Sullins, Assistant Director, (386-5445).

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "William B. Stewart". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "William" and last name "Stewart" being the most prominent parts.

Comptroller General
of the United States